

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01310 01 OF 02 061213Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 SP-02 ICA-11 TRSE-00 DODE-00
IO-13 /085 W
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R 061135Z JUN 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6940
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO

CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 2 USBERLIN 1310

USEEC

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, BQG, AKB, EEC
SUBJECT: SELECTING CANDIDATES FOR THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

REF: (A) BONN 9525, (B) USBERLIN 1110, (C) USBERLIN 1115

SUMMARY: MISSION OFFICER MET WITH SENAT CHANCELLERY DIRECTOR HEIMANN MAY 26 TO DISCUSS GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE'S PROPOSAL THAT EC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATE SELECTION BE LINKED TO MARCH 1979 BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION. SELECTION OF EC PARLIAMENTARY DEPUTIES WILL BE CARRIED OUT EXACTLY LIKE SELECTION OF BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES. HEIMANN INDICATED STOBBE HAD NOT GIVEN MUCH THOUGHT TO DETAILS OF HIS PROPOSAL TO LINK CANDIDATE SELECTION FOR EC PARLIAMENT TO MARCH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTIONS, BUT HEIMANN DOUBTED THERE WOULD BE

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USBERL 01310 01 OF 02 061213Z

ANY FORMAL LINKAGE OF TWO PROCEDURES. PRINCIPAL PURPOSE OF STOBBE'S REMARKS, AS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, HAD BEEN TO PUT CDU CHAIRMAN LORENZ INTO POLITICALLY DIFFICULT POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. CHAIRMAN U.S. SENAT LIAISON OFFICER CALLED ON SENAT CHANCELLERY DIRECTOR HEIMANN MAY 26 AAS AUTHORIZED (REF A)

TO DISCUSS GOVERNING MAYOR STOBBE'S SUGGESTION THAT SELECTION OF EC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES BE LINKED TO MARCH 1979 BERLIN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION. APPARENTLY HEIMANN HAD BEEN FORWARDED OF PURPOSE OF VISIT BY FRG BONN GROUP REP (REF A), MAKING PRETENSE OF "LOW KEY" APPRAOCH SOMEWHAT SUPREFLUOUS. HEIMANN WENT RIGHT TO POINT NOTING THAT EC PARLIAMENTARIANS WOULD BE SELECTED BY BERLIN HOUSE IN IDENTICAL FASHION TO THAT USED TO SELECT BERLIN'S REPRESENTATIVES IN THE BUNDESTAG.

2. REFERRING TO STOBBE'S PROPOSAL, HEIMANN SAID HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED DETAILS WITH THE GOVERNING MAYOR, BUT WOULD DO SO IF ALLIES SO WISHED. CHAIRMAN SENAT LIAISON OFFICER INDICATED THIS WAS NOT NECESSARY AT THE PRESENT TIME. HEIMANN THEN SAID THAT NO PARTICULAR THOUGHT HAD BEEN GIVEN TO HOW ONE MIGHT LINK THE SELECTION OF EC PARLIAMENTARIANS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CAMPAIGN, IF INDEED ANY LINK WAS TO BE MADE AT ALL. IT BECAME VERY CLEAR DURING THE DISCUSSION THAT THE GOVERNING MAYOR HAD MADE HIS PROPOSAL AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE AS A TACTICAL MANEUVER DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS LORENZ. (ADDRESSEES MAY KNOW THAT LORENZ WOULD LIKE TO GO TO BRUSSELS AS AN EC PARLIAMENTARIAN IF HE IS DEFEATED IN MARCH.) HEIMANN NOTED THAT LORENZ HAS ALREADY INDICATED HE DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S PROPOSAL. IT IS NOT ENTIRELY CERTAIN, THEREFORE, THAT THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S SUGGESTION

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 01310 01 OF 02 061213Z

WOULD BE ACTED ON BY ALL THREE PARTIES.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 USBERL 01310 02 OF 02 061307Z
ACTION EUR-12

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 2 OF 2 USBERLIN 1310

3. HEIMANN SAID THAT IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT AT SOME POINT DURING THE CAMPAIGN THE QUESTION OF BERLIN'S RELATIONSHIP TO WESTERN EUROPE AND SPECIFICALLY TO THE EC WILL COME UP AS A CAMPAIGN ISSUE. IN THIS CONTEXT, HEIMANN NOTED, IT IS NOT ONLY LIKELY BUT VERY NATURAL THAT BERLIN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE EC PARLIAMENT WILL BE GIVEN SOME ATTENTION. HEIMANN GAVE HIS PERSONAL OPINION, HOWEVER, THAT BERLIN'S REPRESENTATION IN THE EC PARLIAMENT, AND THE SPECIFIC CANDIDATES FOR THE EC PARLIAMENT, WOULD PLAY AN EXTREMELY SMALL ROLE IN THE CAMPAIGN. BY WAY OF COMPARISON HEIMANN POINTED OUT THAT VIRTUALLY NO BERLINER ASSOCIATES THE ELECTION OF BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES, WHO ARE CHOSEN BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, WITH THE SELECTION OF THE HOUSE MEMBERS THEMSELVES. SIMILARLY, HEIMANN SAID HE SERIOUSLY DOUBTS THAT BERLINERS WILL THINK ABOUT THE FACT THEY ARE SELECTING "THE ELECTORS" FOR THE EC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES WHEN

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USBERL 01310 02 OF 02 061307Z

THEY VOTE IN MARCH 1979. THE ONLY THING WHICH WILL MATTER ON THAT ELECTION DAY WILL BE THE SELECTION OF A GOVERNING MAYOR.

4. HEIMANN ASKED WHAT THE ALLIES' SPECIFIC RESERVATIONS TO THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S PROPOSAL WERE. MISSOFF REPLIED THAT THERE WAS A CONCERN THAT IT MIGHT APPEAR TO SOME THAT BERLIN WAS ATTEMPTING TO USE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION AS AN "ERSATZ" DIRECT ELECTION PROCEDURE. SUCH AN IMPRESSION WOULD BE STRENGTHENED WERE, FOR EXAMPLE, ELECTION POSTERS PUT UP FOR THE EC CANDIDATES, OR IF THEIR NAMES WERE TO APPEAR ON BALLOTS OR CAMPAIGN LITERATURE. HEIMANN STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT THE DESIRE OF THE GOVERNING MAYOR OR ANYONE ELSE IN BERLIN TO ATTEMPT TO GO BEHIND THE INTENT OF ALLIED RESERVATIONS ON DIRECT ELECTIONS FOR THE EC PARLIAMENT. HE COULD NOT IMAGINE THAT THE EC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES WOULD APPEAR ON THE BALLOT. HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT AN INDIVIDUAL POLITICAL PARTY MIGHT WISH TO INCLUDE EC PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES IN THEIR ELECTROAL

CAMPAIGN MATERIALS.

5. SUMMING UP, HEIMANN TOLD MISOFF THAT THE ALLIES COULD BE ASSURED THAT THERE WAS NO INTENTION OF GOING BEHIND THE ALLIES' BACK IN LINKING PARTY NOMINATIONS FOR THE EC PARLIAMENT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION. WITH A CERTAIN DEGREE OF EMBARRASSMENT, HEIMANN CONCEDED THAT STOBBE'S REMARKS WERE PRIMARY INTENDED AS A POLITICAL THRUST TO EMBARRASS HIS PRIMARY OPPOSITION CANDIDATE. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE, THEREFORE, HEIMANN INDICATED, TO READ MORE IMPORTANCE INTO THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S STATEMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 01310 02 OF 02 061307Z

6. WE ARE SATISFIED WITH HEIMANN'S COMMENTS. IT IS CLEAR THAT ALLIED CONCERNS HAVE BEEN REGISTERED. (HEIMANN TOOK NOTES DURING THE CONVERSATION.) THE SPD HAS BEEN ALERTED TO OUR CONCERN. THE CDU DOES NOT LIKE THE GOVERNING MAYOR'S PROPOSAL, AND UNDER THE D'HONDT PROPORTIONAL SELECTION METHOD USED FOR CHOOSING CANDIDATES THE FDP DOES NOT STAND A CHANCE TO HAVE ONE OF ITS MEMBERS ELECTED. FOR THE TIME BEING, THEREFORE, WE FEEL THERE IS NO NEED TO DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH THE SENAT OR THE GOVERNING MAYOR. GEORGE

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